International Seminar on Population Dynamics in Muslim Countries

Seminar Booklet

6-7 October 2014
University of Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
In collaboration with:
Population Association of Iran
Faculty of World Studies, University of Tehran
Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tehran
Population and Development Project, University of Tehran
World Demographic and Ageing Forum
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
United Nations Population Fund, Iran
Embassy of Switzerland, Tehran

Coordinator:
Mohammad Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi
Director, National Population Studies Institute (NPSI)

National Organizing Committee:
Mohammad Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi, Director, NPSI
Mohammad Mirzaie, President, Population Association of Iran
Seyyed Mohammad Marandi, Dean, Faculty of World Studies, UT
Hossein Mahmoudian, Associate Professor of Demography, UT
Younes Nourbakhsh, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, UT
Rasoul Sadeghi, Assistant Professor of Demography, UT
Hajiieh Bibi Razeghi, Research Manager, NPSI
Christina Fischer, Embassy of Switzerland
Osha Hatami, Research Assistant, NPSI
Kambiz Kabiri, UNFPA
FORWARD

Muslim countries have experienced demographic and social transitions in recent decades. These unprecedented changes have implications at national, regional and global levels. On the national level, population dynamics have led to a very young age structure which in turn present opportunities and challenges related to the economy, wealth distribution, health, political governance and socio-economic structures. Rapid economic change and diversity has also led to population movements within and between countries at the regional level. Population policies should take into account these emerging population issues to ensure achievement of sustainable development at all levels. Given the cultural and socio-economic diversity among Islamic countries, however, no unique policy can fit with the situation of all Muslim nations. In addition, the knowledge in the developed world about this diversity is very limited and needs rapid improvement. This calls for a context-specific analysis to provide a deeper understanding of population issues as well as the pathways by which these population policy objectives can be reached.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has experienced phenomenal social, economic and demographic changes in recent decades. Having experienced below-replacement fertility since 2000, there has been some discussions on population policy reversal in the country in recent years. In response to projected changes in the age structure as well as the possibility of population decline, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Khamenei, on 20 May 2014 instructed relevant government agencies to formulate comprehensive plans for achieving the economic, social and cultural growth of the country in line with population policies. Iran’s advancement on education and health particularly its comprehensive health network system and successful family planning program has been exemplary. The success of the new policies depends upon a deep understanding of the current social and demographic changes in Iran as well as the lessons learnt from experiences in other countries with similar social and cultural situations.

The international/regional seminar on Population Dynamics in Muslim Countries brought together national and international scholars to discuss the diversity of demographic transitions and implications of these changes for Muslim countries. A few selected scholars from such Islamic countries as Iran, Pakistan and Turkey were invited to share their research findings, and had a dialogue on the future of their populations. Dr Hans Groth and Ambassador Christian Blickenstorfer from the World Demographic & Ageing Forum (St. Gallen/Switzerland) presented the findings of the 2012 book on Population Dynamics in Muslim Countries: Assembling the Jigsaw. Prof. Banu Ergöçmen discussed Population Dynamics in Turkey while Dr Zeba Sathar presented population issues in Pakistan. Dr Meimanat Hosseini and I shall discussed population dynamics and policies in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The seminar was followed by a panel discussion at the Population Association of Iran, and launch of two books: Population Dynamics in Muslim Countries AND Atlas of Muslim Minorities in Europe and Americas. Other presentations were also be made at the University of Yazd on 8 October and the University of Shiraz on 12 October.
The events were attended by scholars and academics as well as policy makers, parliamentarians and representative of international agencies in Iran. The outcome of these meetings and discussions can lead to further collaborations between these countries and other scholars with interest on population issues in the region.

Organising such an international seminar is not an easy task and it involves a great deal of efforts and support from various individuals as well as national and international organizations. First and foremost, I would like to appreciate the great support we received from the Ministry of Science and Technology for the approval and partial support of this seminar. We would also like to acknowledge the support from the UNFPA office in Tehran, World Demographic and Ageing Forum, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and Embassy of Switzerland for providing partial funds towards the expenses of this seminar. Other institutions include Population Association of Iran, Faculty of Social Sciences as well as Faculty of World Studies of the University of Tehran where the events were held.

My colleagues at the NPSI have extended their efforts for the organization of seminar and I would especially like to appreciate Dr Rasoul Sadeghi, Dr Hajjieh Bibi Razeghi, Osha Hatami, Leila Kaviani, Hamideh Zarrin Drafsh and Akbar Rezaie for their support. Valuable encouragement and collaboration from Professor Alireza Marandi, Professor Mohammad Mirzaie, Dr Younes Nourbaksh, Dr Mohammad Marandi and Dr Hosseini Mahmoudian is gratefully acknowledged.

This booklet provides the list and biosketch of presenters, abstracts, and activities of the international seminar held in Tehran. I hope that the results of this scientific gathering strengthen future collaborations between scholars and policy makers at the national and international levels for a better understanding of population issues in Muslim countries. This will ensure better policies for improvement of lives of people in our countries and future generations.

Mohammad Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi
Professor and Director,
National Population Studies Institute
Inaugural Speech by Professor Seyed Alireza Marandi
President of the Academy of Medical Sciences, and Member of Parliament

Honourable Members of Parliament
Distinguished Director of the National Population Studies Institute
Distinguished, President of the Population Association of Iran
Distinguished, President of the Statistical Centre
Distinguished Professors, international, and national participants

It is an honour and a great pleasure for me to welcome you all to the International Seminar on Population Dynamics in Muslim Countries which is organized by the National Institute of Population Research at the Faculty of World studies of the University of Tehran.

This is a significant event in the history of the National Population Studies Institute, and also a very timely one. The seminar has gathered together distinguished national and international scholars, population experts as well as high ranking government officials and parliamentarians to discuss major population issues and their implications for population and development policies in Islamic countries. The presentations and discussions will also shed light on the new population policies issued by the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khomeini.

I would like to use this opportunity to share some of my personal experiences as a former Minister of Health and Medical Education who was involved in the post-revolutionary population policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I have also been involved in preparing a bill in Parliament regarding the new population policies. As we all know the late Imam Khomeini showed principled as well as pragmatic views regarding population and development issues in our country. In fact, the foundation of our Islamic ideology, is to improve the lives of the people at every level. It is due to this worldview that we all have the responsibility to serve our people and implement policies ensuring peace and prosperity for our nations.

At the time of the Islamic Revolution, the population growth rate increased to 3.9 percent and the total fertility rate was around 7 children per woman, MMR was 255 per 100,000 live births, and the infant mortality was around 110 per 1000 live births. The literacy rate, particularly for women, across the country was indeed at a very low level. In addition, there were significant disparities among and within provinces.

One of the slogans of the Islamic Revolution was to improve the health situation of the less privileged and deprived. The Ministry of Health and Medical Education, therefore established and expanded the Primary Health Care System in deprived areas throughout the country with emphasis on rural regions. In 1985, despite the imposed war, Parliament approved the expansion of the health network system and the rural population was subsequently provided with primary health care. These services included health education, prenatal, natal, and postnatal health care, family planning, children’s health care such as immunization, nutrition and growth monitoring as well as environmental health.
This health development strategy improved the situation at all levels, including the under 5 mortality rate, IMR and MMR. The establishment of our health care network subsequently lead to an unprecedented rate of population growth. At this point the late Imam Khomeini accepted the practice of F.P to control the rate of population growth, and this ultimately led to the passing of a law in this regard.

It is important to note that Iran’s pragmatic approach towards development has also been noticeable in the areas of education particularly for girls. All indicators show drastic improvement in this area.

As the title and the theme of this seminar reveals, population issues are rapidly changing and there is a need for flexible and comprehensive policies to respond to the needs of the population. Recent statistics have shown that total fertility rate has declined in recent years to below-replacement levels in many countries including ours. The TFR for Iran has been estimated to be around 1.7-1.8 children per woman and the age of marriage has also risen. The patterns of mortality and diseases have also been in transition. Due to these reasons, the country needed to change its previous policies and introduce new ideas based on the current and future needs of Iran’s population.

In respond to this reality, on 20 May 2014, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Khamenei, instructed various government organizations and agencies to design new population policies for Iran. The guidelines include 14 themes covering all aspects to ensure both the quantity and quality of the population. It includes measures to increase the birth rate to above replacement levels and deals with issues linked to lifestyle, the family, the youth, ageing, the environment as well as the monitoring of the population. My colleagues in Parliament and I have had meetings over the past two years to draft a bill to implement the new population policies.

The guidelines instructed by Ayatollah Khamenei are comprehensive and their implementations need complex management. It is, thus, important that all experts, demographers, health planners, economists, and policy makers have discussions and collaborate on designing and implementing the new policies. There should be exchanges of ideas not only between and among national policy makers but also with the participation of national and international scholars. Policies also need to be understood and accepted by the public. Finally, the infrastructure will also need to be in place to ensure the full and sustainable implementation of the new policies.

I am pleased that the National Population Studies Institute has taken the initiative to bring both national and international scholars together in order to discuss population issues in Muslim countries and to find the best ways for a successful implementation of population policies in the Islamic Republic of Iran. I congratulate Professor Abbasi-Shavazi and his colleagues for this initiative, and extend our support for their future activities. I hope the discussions in this seminar will contribute to our comprehensive population plan. Once again, I would like to thank you for attending this seminar and for your attention.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 - 9:00</td>
<td>Recitation of the Holy Quran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Session 1: Welcoming and Introduction</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Mohammad Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Professor of Demography, University of Tehran &amp;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Director, National Population Studies Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Seyyed Mohammad Marandi</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dean Faculty of World Studies, University of Tehran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Hulki Uz</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNFPA Representative, Tehran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inaugural Speech on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Population, Health and Development in the Islamic Republic of Iran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Seyed Alireza Marandi</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M.D., Member of Parliament and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>President of the Academy of Medical Sciences, Iran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:15</td>
<td>Demographic Transition in Muslim Countries: Tackling Upcoming Challenges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in Business &amp; Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Hans Groth</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chairman of the Board of The World Demographic &amp; Ageing Forum (WDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Forum), University of St. Gallen, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Zeba Sathar</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Director, Population Council, Islamabad, Pakistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Mohammad Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi and Meimanat Hosseini-Chavoshi</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Professor of Demography, University of Tehran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research Fellow, Australian National University, Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Morning Tea</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15 - 10:40</td>
<td><strong>Session 2: Chair: Mohammad Mirzaie, President, PAI</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:40 - 11:30</td>
<td>Demographic Profile of Turkey: Specifics and Challenges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Banu Akadlı Ergömen</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Professor, Institute of Population Studies, Hacettepe University, Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Political Development in Islamic Countries and the Role of Demography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Christian Blickenstorfer</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ambassador, Member of the Board of The World Demographic &amp; Ageing Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(WDA Forum), University of St. Gallen, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 - 12:00</td>
<td><strong>Conclusion and Discussion</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00-13:30</td>
<td><strong>Prayer and Lunch</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Panel Discussion
Key Findings and Policy Implications of the Seminar on:
Population Dynamics in Muslim Countries
6 October 2014

Organizers:
Population Association of Iran AND National Population Studies Institute

Time and Venue:
Monday, 16:00-18:00, Dialogue Hall, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tehran

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction and Welcoming</td>
<td>Mohammad Mirzaei</td>
<td>Professor, University of Tehran, and President, Population Association of Iran</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Moderator
Mohammad Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi
Professor, University of Tehran, and Vice-President, Population Association of Iran

Presenters:

Hans Groth
Chairman of the Board of The World Demographic & Ageing Forum (WDA Forum), University of St. Gallen, Switzerland

Zeba Sathar
Director, Population Council, Islamabad, Pakistan

Banu Akadlı Ergöçmen
Professor and Head, Department of Demography, Institute of Population Studies, Hacettepe University, Turkey
Book Launch

Population Dynamics in Muslim Countries: Assembling the Jigsaw

Editors:
Hans Groth and Alfonso Sousa-Poza
The World Demographic & Ageing Forum (WDA Forum), University of St. Gallen, Switzerland

&

Atlas of Muslim Minorities in Europe and Americas
BY
Dr Younes Nourbakhsh
Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tehran

Date, Time, and Venue:
Tuesday 7 October 2014, 9:00-11:00
Dialogue Hall,
Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tehran

Introduction
Professor Mohammad Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi
Director, National Population Studies Institute

Opening Remarks
H.E. Ambassador Giulio Haas
Embassy of Switzerland, Tehran

Presentations:
Ambassador Christian Blickenstorfer
Former Swiss Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, USA and Germany, & Member of the Board of the World Demographic & Ageing Forum (WDA Forum), University of St., Gallen, Switzerland

Dr Mohammad Ali Mousavi
Associate Professor, Department of North American Studies, Faculty of World Studies, & Advisor to the Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance

Question and Answers

Refreshment
Bioscetch of the Presenters
Mohammad Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi is Professor of Demography at the University of Tehran, and Director of the National Population Studies Institute. During 2010 to 2014, he was Future Fellow at the Australian Demographic and Social Research Institute (ADSRI) before his honorary appointment as Adjunct Associate Professor at the Crawford School of Public Policy of the Australian National University (ANU). He has a PhD in Demography from the ANU, with his thesis focusing on “Fertility Patterns of Immigrant Groups in Australia”. Professor Abbasi-Shavazi served as the Head of the Department of Demography of the University of Tehran during 2002-2006, and was a member of the Executive Council of the Population Association of Iran during 2001-2010.

Abbasi-Shavazi’s main research has been focused on Iran’s fertility transition but he has also published widely on other areas including family change, reproductive health, immigration and refugees. His decade-long research collaboration with Professor Peter McDonald and Dr Meimanat Hosseini-Chavoshi led to the book on The Fertility Transition in Iran: Revolution and Reproduction published by Springer in 2009, and won the 2011 World Prize for the Best Book of the Islamic Republic of Iran. His current research focuses on Iran’s population policies as well as the demography of forced migration and refugees with particular attention to the situation of Afghan refugees in Iran and Australia.

Abbasi-Shavazi has served as member of numerous professional and advisory boards of prestigious population journals and professional associations. He serves as the Vice-President of the Population Association of Iran. Since 2007, he has been a Member of Management Committee of Refugee Research Network in York University, Toronto, Canada; and is Chair of International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) Scientific Panel on Demography of Forced Migration and Refugees (2011-2014). Abbasi-Shavazi also serves as a member of the International Advisory Board of the journals of Asian Population Studies, International Migration Review, Migration and Development, and Demographia. He is a founding member of the Asian Population Association (APA) and served as its Vice-President (2009-2010), and President (2011-2012). Professor Abbasi-Shavazi is the Laureate of the 2011 United Nations Population Award.
Christian Blickenstorfer

Ambassador Blickenstorfer earned his Ph.D. in modern history and international law at the University of Zurich in 1972. He joined the Swiss Foreign Service in 1974. His assignments included Cairo, Bangkok, Teheran and Washington D.C. From 1993 to 1997, he served as Ambassador of Switzerland to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Yemen. From 1997 to 2000, he was Head of the Political Division II in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, responsible for relations with Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Oceania and Latin America. In 2000, he was appointed Political Director in the Federal Department for Foreign Affairs. From 2001 to 2006 he served as Ambassador to the United States of America and until his retirement in 2010 as Ambassador to Germany.
Banu Akadlı Ergöçmen is Professor of Demography and she is currently the head of Demography Department at the Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies. She received her bachelor degree in Sociology from the Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey. She, then, received her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Demography from Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies, Ankara, Turkey. Besides her academic studies in demography as a lecturer, she has over 25 years of experience in carrying out quantitative and qualitative research on the demographic issues and related aspects of population. She has participated in and been responsible for a significant number of national field surveys in Turkey. To illustrate, she was the technical director of the 1998 and 2003 Turkey Demographic and Health Surveys and technical coordinator of the National Research on Domestic Violence against Women in Turkey (2008). Migration and Displaced Persons Survey in Turkey (2005), National Maternal Mortality Study in Turkey (2008) and the follow up survey of Domestic Violence against Women, which was carried out in 2013, are among the other surveys in which she was responsible from the qualitative part.

Prof. Ergöçmen has also been coordinating and actively taking part in the collaborative activities of United Nations Population Fund-Eastern Europe and Central Asian Countries (UNFPA-EECA) Regional Office since Hacettepe Institute of Population Studies is one of the implementing partners of UNFPA-EECA Regional Office.

As an experienced demographer and lecturer, she has taken part in several demography courses both in Turkey and abroad. She has publications in the field of demography. She is a member of several professional bodies including International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) and European Association for Population Studies (EAPS).
Dr. med. Hans Groth, MBA is Chairman of the Board of the World Demographic & Ageing Forum (WDA Forum). In addition, he is member of the Board of Directors of RehaClinic Bad Zurzach AG - a Switzerland-based chain of rehabilitation clinics - and President of Academia Engelberg – a Swiss foundation committed to the public dialogue on science. Since 2009, Dr. Groth has been a permanent guest lecturer at the University of St. Gallen (HSG)/Switzerland with the topic “Megatrend: Global Demographic Change”. Till 2012 Hans Groth has been working with Pfizer Inc. for twenty-four years. He has comprehensive experience in over 30 healthcare markets including Western Europe, Eastern Europe & Central Asia, the USA and Canada. His responsibilities have included medical affairs, clinical research, regulatory, marketing & sales as well as international public affairs including negotiating pricing & access conditions with government authorities, NGOs as well as healthcare payers.

For the past fourteen years, Dr. Groth has been studying the interaction between global demographic change, economic development, wealth and societal stability (c.f. “Europe’s Demographic Challenge - Unlocking the Value of Health” Hans Groth & Nicholas Eberstadt, 2007, “Population Dynamics in Muslim Countries – Assembling the Jigsaw” Hans Groth & Alfonso Sousa-Poza, 2012, “Africa’s Population: Demographic Dividend or Social Time Bomb” Hans Groth & John May, in press). The focus of his research has built upon theories of economic development & productivity and employing the value of health, education and progress in societal governance as sustainable tools to unlock new ways to tackle the imminent challenges of demographic change.
Meimanat Hosseini-Chavoshi is a Research Associate at the Crawford School of Public Policy of the Australian National University (ANU) and formerly Senior Officer of the Family Health and Population Department of the Iran Ministry of Health and Medical Education. She obtained her PhD in Demography from the ANU in Demography where she completed her PhD thesis on fertility regulation in Iran. She was the winner of the 2003 W.D Borrie Prize for the best graduate essay from the Australian Population Association, and completed her Post-Doctoral research on health and psychological consequences of abortion in Iran funded by the Wellcome Trust. Hosseini-Chavoshi has worked with the Iran Ministry of Health for more than two decades. She worked in the area of reproductive and family health at both provincial and national levels, and has been involved in many national family planning and reproductive health surveys during the 1990s as well as the 2000 Iran Demographic and Health Survey. She is expert in survey design and data analysis, and has a long experience on reproductive health and population programs in Iran. Hosseini-Chavoshi has been collaborating with Abbasi-Shavazi and McDonald in several studies on fertility transition in Iran since 2002. Her expertises in application of technical demographic methods has resulted in several unique publications in peer-reviewed and prestigious journals as well as collaboration with some outstanding international demographers. Since 2011, she has been working for the Center of Excellence on Population Aging Research (CEPAR) investigating “Ageing in Australia” with a specific focus on the prospect and policy implications of Ageing in the country. At the same time, she has been always concerned about demographic issues in Iran. Consanguineous marriage, Demographic changes and challenges, and Population trendes and policies are the subject of her most recent publications on demographic studies in Iran. She is also the co-author of the 2009 book The Fertility Transition in Iran: Revolution and Revolution published by Springer.
Seyed Alireza Marandi

Seyed Alireza Marandi, M.D. is President of Iran’s Academy of Medical Sciences, and Professor of Paediatrics and Neonatology at Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences. Professor Marandi has been an elected Member of Parliament (MP) from Tehran city since 2008. Marandi was an Associate Professor at Wright State University in U.S.A before returning to Iran, shortly after the Revolution. Professor Marandi is a former two-term Minister of Health and Medical Education. During his nine years in office, medical education was integrated with health care services. In addition to being Minister, Dr. Marandi also served as Deputy Minister and Advisor to the Minister.

Professor Marandi has served as Chairman of the Iranian Society of Neonatologists; the Board of Directors of the Islamic Republic of Iran Breastfeeding Promotion Society; and the National Committee for the Reduction of Perinatal Mortality and Morbidity, and a commissioner of the World Health Organization (WHO) Commission on Social Determinants of Health and a leading international expert on health issues. He is the 1999 Laureate of the United Nations Population Award and the 2000 WHO’s Eastern Mediterranean Region’s Shousha Award.

Of his major contributions, was a highly successful national immunization program (which also included a program for eradication of polio in Iran), the significant reduction of infant and child mortality rates, as well as organizing one of the most successful national birth control programs in the world. Professor Marandi has been involved in population policies during the late 1980s and is an active member of newly designed population policies. He has extensive list of publications on various health issues in Iran.
Zeba Sathar

Zeba Sathar is a Senior Associate and Director of the Population Council office in Islamabad, Pakistan. She oversees technical assistance and capacity building, social science research, and population and demographic dividend research that informs national policy discussions and developments. Sathar also represents the Council through advisory meetings with government officials in Pakistan. Her expertise includes cross-national comparative research, advocacy for policy change, analysis of demographic trends and patterns, and evaluations of health service delivery systems. Sathar manages programs that bridge all three of the Council's strategic priorities related to Poverty, Gender, and Youth; Reproductive Health; and HIV and AIDS. She works closely with other country directors and senior Council leaders to align research and policy outreach efforts, while also highlighting the importance of prioritizing population and reproductive health as key issues within Pakistan.

Sathar joined the Council in 1994 as a deputy representative in the Islamabad office, where she conducted research on fertility and family planning; planned and implemented research projects; and managed relationships with donors. Prior to joining the Council, Sathar was chief of research and demography at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics and a population consultant with the World Bank in Islamabad. In 2006, Sathar received the Tamgha-i-Imtiaz award by the President of Pakistan in recognition of her public service to the development sector in Pakistan. She is also the first Pakistani to be elected to the governing council of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, and is a co-lead of FP2020's Performance, Monitoring and Accountability working group. Sathar is a lead author on the Population Council's publication Capturing the Demographic Dividend in Pakistan, an evaluation of population trends, challenges in achieving demographic change, and policies for capturing the demographic dividend in Pakistan.

Sathar has a PhD in medical demography from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and a MSc in demography from the London School of Economics. She frequently publishes articles on gender and equality, safe abortion and postabortion care, maternal and child health, and family planning, and presents her research at national and international scientific conferences.
Demographic Transition in Muslim Countries:
Tackling Upcoming Challenges in Business & Society

Hans Groth, Chairman of the Board, World Demographic & Ageing Forum (WDA Forum), St. Gallen/Switzerland

Demographic transition is a global phenomenon of the 21st century affecting both the developed and the developing world. This inevitable change is not just about the simple size of a given nation – it is also about a new and unprecedented equilibrium among generations. On the national domestic level, this new balance therefore implies challenges concerning a country’s economy, wealth, health, political governance, and its societal structures. Internationally this change might also affect the quality of relations between nations and regions. Furthermore, there is a likelihood that new alliances will occur – some countries will gain influence while others will become less influential and powerful.

While European nations are increasingly concerned about their ageing and shrinking, knowledge about unfolding demographic trends in regions such as Africa, Asia and the Middle East is limited and thus, does not receive the public or policymaking attention it deserves. However, in a globalizing world, such knowledge is critical for current and future leaders in business and society.

This paper presents some characteristics of the causes and effects of ongoing demographic changes in Muslim countries. Religion, tradition, and culture cannot be neglected when discussing population dynamics in this region. Many of the discrepancies among demographic trends can be linked to these features and religious leaders have an important role. Furthermore, the female segment in these societies offers a key to managing demographic change. Education and empowerment of women lead to better health for mother and child, increased age of marriage, higher social status and better societal involvement. All of these factors contribute not only to lower and more controlled fertility rates but also to prospering societies with increasing wealth and welfare.

To ensure a positive future outcome for the youth bulge in this region and for reasons of national, regional and global stability, employment for hundreds of millions of individuals must be created.

All the challenges identified might seem overwhelming. However, case studies from the past provide encouraging evidence that successful change is possible. The last decades have also shown that new industries can emerge and, almost overnight, grow to employ a significant part of the population.

To meet these challenges and to facilitate a shift from pure description of options to actually achievable change, a framework – called ACTION* – is proposed. On purpose it aims to be general enough to have relevance across the diverse Muslim countries and elsewhere.

*ACTION = Awareness, Causality, Trust, Interaction, Organisation, Now
Pakistan's Population Prospects, 2010-2030: A Glass Half Full or Half Empty?

Zeba Sathar, Director, Population Council, Islamabad, Pakistan

This paper discusses alternative population projections for Pakistan for the next 20 years and analyzes trends, the main driver of future population growth. The next section explores the important anticipated changes in structure and in the size and composition of the labor force over the next two decades. The future prospects of prospering as a result of this expansion in the labor force depends on several internal and external factors, but the creation of a huge number of additional jobs is a stark reality that has to be faced in any economic forecasting. In the final section, the paper offers some suggestions for public policy to enable the country to benefit from a period of favorable age structure and declining dependency ratios mainly through expending the fertility decline and utilizing the positive potential outcomes of raising employment rates for youth and women.
Population Trends and Their Implications for New Policies in Iran

Mohammad Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi, Professor of Demography, University of Tehran
Meimanat Hosseini-Chavoshi, Research Fellow, Australian National University, Australia

Iran has experienced remarkable demographic change over the last three decades. Soon after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the pronatalist ideology led to the suspension of family planning programs encouraging early marriage and high fertility. This was reversed following the release of the 1986 census when policy makers notified that Iran had attained the highest population growth (3.9 per cent) ever recorded.

However, the high fertility regime was short lived, and the government reversed population policies and programs in favour of fertility control in the late 1980s. Advancement of the family planning program was revived, and reproductive health services and free contraception became available throughout the country. All ministries were obliged to review their policies and programs to facilitate fertility control policy adopted in 1989. Rural development, advancement of education particularly for girls, the nationwide health network system providing free primary health care and family planning services accelerated fertility decline. The pragmatic views of the Islamic government legitimised and facilitated the successful implementation of family planning program. Fertility declined sharply from around 7 births per woman in the early 1980s to the replacement level by 2000, and further decreased to 1.9 in 2006 and 1.8 in 2011.

The fall of fertility has led to a young age structure of population which in combination with the expansion of education created the so called ‘demographic window’ for the country. While potentially this ‘golden opportunity’ can result in economic prosperity, the current economic and political situation may hinder the positive prospects in the foreseeable future.

Recent debates at the government level paid attention to the prospect of further fertility decline and its possible negative impact on population growth rate in the future. For this reason the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution has instructed government agencies to take a pronatalist approach but consider population issues comprehensively to ensure both quantity and quality of population. Studies and discussions are needed to ascertain the pathways by which these policies can be implemented successfully.
Demographic Picture of Turkey: What lies ahead?

Banu Ergöçmen, Professor, Institute of Population Studies, Hacettepe University, Turkey

The demographic transition that Turkey has been going through since the last century is expected to be completed within the next three decades. The low level of fertility and declined mortality are among the distinctly visible characteristics that portray the current situation of the Turkish population. Besides the social and economic development of the country, different population policies adopted almost forty years apart have been the underlying factors in shaping the current demographic structure of Turkey. In other words, demographic characteristics of today are the outcome of high fertility levels of the past, followed by a rapid fertility decline.

Today, population of Turkey has a slower population growth rate, a fertility rate close to replacement level, a low level of mortality and thus longer life spans. The median age of the population is 30.4 and one fourth of the total population is under age 15. The age structure of the country reflects the existing population momentum, which is also indicative of the potential for future growth. On the other hand, the share of the working population aged 15-64 is 68 percent and expected to increase during the next two decades. The proportion of elderly, which is high on the agenda, already accounts for 8 percent of the population and the expectation is such that its steady increase during the period ahead will continue and reach at 20 percent of the population by mid century. Projections for mid century indicate that the number of children will stabilize and size of the economically productive age group will increase and double within the next decades and the population growth of the country is expected to stabilize by the mid century. In other words, as a result of the primary demographic consequence of fertility decline, combined with a rise in life expectancy, there has been a rapid change in the age composition of the population; a transformation from a young population to a structure with a potential for ageing.

These demographic transformations combined with ongoing social changes have put the population issues in Turkey in a challenging status. The current young population group, growing share of the economically productive age population and the population which will become much older toward the final stage of transition are the facts that require a holistic approach through multiple policies. How these issues are appraised by the policy makers as well as the community will shape the future structure of the country. Additionally, disparities beyond national averages, such as urban-rural and regional, should also be considered since demographic transition phases differentiate at these sub-levels. Today’s policies and tendencies will establish the course of demographic change in Turkey in the approaching decades.
Political Development in Islamic Countries and the Role of Demography

Christian Blickenstorfer, Former Ambassador AND Member of the Board of the World Demographic & Ageing Forum (WDA Forum), University of St., Gallen, Switzerland

The People’s Power wave that has swept through the Middle East since late December 2010 has ousted some very long-serving autocrats. Although it is too early to tell whether this is a pivotal moment in the history of the Middle East, it will most certainly be an important milestone in the region’s further development. Although the outcome of the uprising will vary in the respective countries, the movement is underlain by certain structural similarities that will continue to shape its future development: demographic dynamics, a challenging situation in the labor markets, social structures that particularly affect women, uncertain positions of religious leaders which matter for the final outcomes. To cope successfully with these challenges, political leaders will have to come to terms with these structural features and bring about corresponding reforms. It is clear that there can be no easy borrowing of some off-the-shelf-solution for a democratic transition in the Arab world. Whether Western style democracy will be the solution to generate populist regimes that will make it easier for the new leaders to cater to the expectations and wishes of the masses and assuage their social and economic frustrations. It is therefore likely that Turkey and not the European countries will serve as a role model for some countries in the region.
In the Name of God, the merciful,

Taking into account the importance of the population issue in terms of national power and considering the dynamism, productivity and youth of the current population, which is as an opportunity and advantage, and in line with compensating for the decrease in the population growth and fertility over the past years, I instruct the new overall population policies. Considering the proactive role of the population element in the advancement of the country, comprehensive plans for economic, social and cultural growth of the country proportionate to the population policies are required. It is also necessary that relevant stakeholders coordinate and divide labor in this regard and that the necessary action is taken with precision, speed and power, and that the results of continuous monitoring of policy implementation are reported.

Overall Population Policies
1- Promote dynamics, productivity and youth of the population while increasing the fertility rate to above the replacement level,
2- Eliminate obstacles to marriage, facilitate and advocate for family formation and having more children, reduce the marriage age and support and empowerment of young couples to cover their living costs and bringing up a good and efficient generation,
3- Allocate adequate resources for women, especially during pregnancy and lactation, insurance coverage costs for deliveries and treatment of infertility among men and women, and strengthening relevant support institutions.
4- Strengthening family ties and the family institution through revision and completion of public education about the authenticity of family and parenting with an emphasis on communication, life skills and counselling services based on Iranian-Islamic values and culture, and the development and strengthening of the social security system, and prevention and treatment in line with reproductive health and childbearing.
5- Promoting and institutionalizing an Iranian-Islamic lifestyle and tackling undesirable aspects of the Western lifestyle.
6- Improving life expectancy, ensuring health and healthy nutrition of the population, and the prevention of social problems, particularly addiction, accidents, environmental pollution and diseases.
7- Establishing a culture of respect for the elderly and creating conditions for maintaining their health and caring for them in families, making necessary provisions to utilize the experience and capacity of elderly in different fields.
8- Empowerment of the working-age population by establishing a culture and revising, strengthening and harmonizing the educational system for entrepreneurship and professional skills, in line with the needs of society and their talents and interests, in order to generate effective and productive employment.
9- Geographical re-distribution of the population, according to the environmental capacities with emphasis on ensuring water supply and reducing population pressure with the aim of an equal distribution of the target population.
10- Retain and attract population in rural- and border areas, and areas with low population density, establishing new population settlements, especially on islands and coasts of the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea, through the development of infrastructure networks, supporting and encouraging investment and establishing a business environment with sufficient income.
11- Management of immigration and emigration in line with the overall population policies through development and implementation of appropriate mechanisms
12- Encourage expatriates to invest and utilize their capacities and capabilities.
13- Strengthening components of national identity (Iranian, Islamic, Revolutionary) and promotion of unity and integration across the country, particularly among those living in border areas and expatriates.
14- Continuous monitoring of qualitative and quantitative aspects of population policies, through the establishment of appropriate mechanisms and the development of local indicators of human development through studies on population and human development.
سمینار بین‌المللی پژوهایی جمعیت در کشورهای اسلامی
۱۱ تا ۱۵ مهر ماه ۱۳۹۱

برگزار کننده:
موسسه مطالعات و مدیریت جامع و تخصصی جمعیت کشور
با همکاری:
انجمن جمعیت شناسی ایران
دانشکده علوم اجتماعی دانشگاه تهران
دانشکده مطالعات جهان دانشگاه تهران
موسسه جهانی جمعیت و سالمندی
آژانس توسعه و همکاری سوئیس
صندوق جمعیت سازمان ملل
سفارت سوئیس
سمینار بین‌المللی پویایی جمعیت در کشورهای اسلامی
۱۴ تا ۱۵ مهرماه ۱۳۹۳